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COMISSÃO PARA OS DIREITOS
DO POVO MAUBERE

Lisbon, September 4th, 1996

Dear Ms. Megawati Sukarnoputri:

CDPM - the Commission for the Rights of the Maubere People - is a Portuguese Non-Governmental Organisation dedicated to the pursuit of a solution for the question of East Timor, through the self-determination of its people.

We follow regularly the situation in Indonesia, and have been impressed by the courage and determination of opposition human rights activists and democracy fighters led by you. Your struggle is important for the faith of the Indonesian people, as well as for that of the East Timorese. We come to you to express our support and recognition, given the extreme difficulties and physical violence both you and your supporters have been inflicted by the Indonesian government and military authorities.

Fifty years ago, Indonesia was oppressed by a colonial regime your father helped to defeat. Today, the oppression comes from inside your borders, and it is you who lead the struggle for freedom and democracy.

Troubled times are ahead for you and your people. The general election of next year and the months before it are dramatically decisive for the future of Indonesia. Only your faith in the values that have led your action in recent times may help you through the hard way ahead.

In a way, the fight of your country for democracy reminds us of our own fight against the dictatorship in Portugal before of the coup of April '74. This coup, which brought freedom and democracy back to the Portuguese people, was in a major line the result of the Colonial wars fought by these Africans peoples. We believe that the fight of the East Timorese for their self-determination will contribute for the democratisation of Indonesia in the same way.

Dear Ms. Sukarnoputri, please be aware of the genocide perpetrated in the Maubere people by the Indonesian regime. Only a political and negotiated solution, with full respect for all of the United Nations Resolutions on the status of the territory, can lead East Timor and Indonesia to a future of good relationship and friendship.

We would like to express our sympathy for your cause.

Wishing you the best luck, and asking you to keep on fighting for what you believe in, we are

Sincerely,

CDPM - Commission for the Rights of the Maubere People

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